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version in Old French. Four out of the six MSS. of this version. ("Als y lay in a winters night"; see especially MÄTZNER, 'Altenglische Sprachproben' i, 90 ff.) which are known to be extant are here printed side by side, with variants of a fifth. The Royal MS. 18 A x. having been already published by Prof. VARNHAGEN himself (*Anglia* ii, 229 ff.) there was no need of reproducing it here. Notwithstanding this seemingly ample material for a critical edition of the M. E. version, circumstances such as the existence of considerable *lacunae* in the most trustworthy MSS. and the fact that the dialect of the original composition, although evidently Midland, has not been more nearly fixed, have deterred LINOW from the undertaking.

As to the problem respecting the relation of each version to others treating the same theme, a problem of peculiar interest in the case of these debates, the M. E. poem presents fewer difficulties than others of the class. It is obviously based upon the Latin 'Visio Philberti' (see E. DU MÉRIL, 'Poésies populaires latines,' Paris, 1843, p. 217 ff.), although LINOW (p. 10 ff.) is doubtless right in connecting individual touches here and there with passages in the 'Un Samedi par nuit.' The parallelisms, to be sure, are not so close as to make necessary the hypothesis of direct exploitation of the Old French original.

In this connection, as bearing upon the whole subject of the origin of debates between soul and body, we may further remark Prof. VARNHAGEN's very important discovery (p. 1 ff.) of a short passage in the Talmud in which a Roman Emperor is reported to have said that, at the final judgment, body and soul might each lay the blame of sin upon the other, inasmuch as the body might say: "The soul committed these sins: since I have been separated from the soul I have been lying in the grave like a lifeless stone"; and the soul might say, for its part: "The body committed these sins: since I have been separated from it, I know no passion and soar as free as a bird in the air." LINOW observes a very just caution in hesitating to assume at once a connection between this passage and the versions of Western Europe. It is not at all improbable that no relation of dependence exists be-

tween them; nevertheless, Prof. VARNHAGEN's discovery is not the point of least interest in this valuable dissertation.

It only remains to be noted that Sir THEODORE MARTIN's fine paraphrase in modern English (Spenserian stanzas) of the M. E. version according to the Auchinleck MS., is here reprinted, as an appendix, from the publication in which it first appeared, viz., 'The Song of the Bell and other Translations from Schiller, Goethe, Uhland and Others' (Blackwood and Sons, 1889).

J. D. BRUCE.

Centre College.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PHONETIC SECTION.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—All persons interested in the study of pronunciation are invited to become members of the Phonetic Section of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION of America by sending a dollar to the Secretary. Unless twenty-five or thirty dollars are subscribed, the Phonetic Section cannot carry on its work of investigation.

C. H. GRANDGENT,
Secretary.

19 Wendell St., Cambridge, Mass.

CORRECTIONS IN VOL. V.

Col. 450, l. 18, *for* Merovæus *read* Meroveus.

" 452, " 20, " gems " germs.

" 452, " 29, " Chlodowig " Chlodoving.

" 453, " 1, " Hinglaucus " Huiglaucus.

" 456, " 16, " presented " preserved.

" 457, " 3 (bottom) *for* Charlemagna of tradition gathered, etc., *read*: The Charlemagne of tradition gathered up the glory of his predecessor and endowed the gathered glory with, etc.

BRIEF MENTION.

Dr. C. H. OHLY's 'Manual of German Composition' (London: Williams & Norgate) contains a general introduction of about 100 pages dealing with the most common difficulties which a beginner in translating from English into German is likely to meet, and about 100